

# Kendrick Lamar, Mother I Sober (ft. Beth Gibbons)

I'm sensitive, I feel everything, I feel everybody  
One man standin' on two words, heal everybody  
Transformation, then reciprocation, karma must return  
Heal myself, secrets that I hide, buried in these words  
Death threats, ego must die, but I let it purge  
Pacify broken, pieces of me, it was all a blur  
Mother cried, put they hands on her, it was family ties  
I heard it all, I should've grabbed a gun, but I was only five  
I still feel weighin' on my heart, my first tough decision  
In the shadows clingin' to my soul as my only critic  
Where's my faith? Told you I was Christian, but just not today  
I transformed, prayin' to the trees, God is taken shape  
My mother's mother followed me for years in her afterlife  
Starin' at me on back of some buses, I wake up at night  
Loved her dearly, traded in my tears for a Range Rover  
Transformation, you ain't felt grief 'til you felt it sober

I wish I was somebody  
Anybody but myself  
Ooh, I wish I was somebody  
Anybody but myself

I remember lookin' in the mirror knowin' I was gifted  
Only child, me for seven years, everything for Christmas  
Family ties, they accused my cousin  
"Did he touch you Kendrick?"  
Never lied, but no one believed me when I said "He didn't"  
Frozen moments, still holdin' on it  
Hard to trust myself, I started rhymin'  
Copin' mechanisms to lift up myself  
Talked to my lawyer, told me not to be so hard on myself  
He has an aurora, I hope to achieve  
If I find some help, congratulations, made it to be famous  
Still I feel uneasy, water watchin', live my life in nature  
Only thing relieves me  
Spirit guide whisper in my ear tell me that she sees me  
"Did he touch you?" I said "No" again, still they didn't believe me  
Mothers brother said he got revenge for my mothers face  
Black and blue, the image of my queen that I can't erase  
'Til this day can't look her in the eyes pain is takin' over  
Blame myself, you never felt guilt 'til you felt it sober

I wish I was somebody  
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Ooh, I wish I was somebody  
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I was never high, I was never drunk  
Never out my mind, I need control  
They handed me some smoke, but still I declined  
I did it sober sittin' with myself  
I went through all emotions, no dependents  
Except for the one, let me bring you closer, intoxicated  
There's a lustful nature that I failed to mention  
Insecurities that I project, sleepin' with other women  
Whitney's hurt, the pure soul I know, I found her in the kitchen  
Askin' God "Where did I lose myself? And can it be forgiven?"  
Broke me down, she looked me in my eyes  
"Is there an addiction?" I said "No", but this time I lied  
I knew that I can't fix it, pure soul, even in her pain  
Know she cared for me, gave me a number  
Said she recommended some therapy  
I asked my momma why she didn't believe me when I told her "No"  
I never knew she was violated in Chicago, I'm sympathetic

Told me that she feared it happened to me, for my protection  
Though it never happened, she wouldn't agree  
Now I'm affected, twenty years later trauma has resurfaced  
Amplified as I write this song, I shiver 'cause I'm nervous  
I was five, questioning myself, 'lone for many years  
Nothing's wrong, just results on how them questions made me feel  
I made it home, seven years on tour, chasin' manhood  
But Whitney's gone by time you hear this song, she did all she could  
All these women gave me super powers, what I thought I lacked  
I pray our children don't inherit me and my feelings  
I attract a conversation, not bein' addressed in black families  
The devastation hauntin' generations and humanity  
They raped our mothers, then they raped our sisters  
Then they made us watch, then made us rape each other  
Psychotic torture between our lives we ain't recovered  
Still livin' as victims in the public eyes who pledge allegiance  
Every other brother has been compromised  
I know the secrets, every other rapper sexually abused  
I see 'em daily burin' the pain in chains and tattoos  
So listen close before you start to pass judgement on how we move  
Learn how we cope, whenever his uncle had to walk him from school  
His ankle grows deep in misogyny  
This is posttraumatic black families and a sodomy, today is still active  
So I set free myself from all the guilt that I thought I made  
So I set free my mother all the hurt that she titled shame  
So I set free my cousin, khaotic for my mothers pain  
I hope Hykeem made you proud, 'cause you ain't die in vein  
So I set free the power of Whitney, may she heal us all  
So I set free out children, may good karma keep them with God  
So I set free the hearts filled with hatred, keep our bodies sacred  
As I set free all you abusers, this is transformation

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You did it, I'm proud of you  
You broke a generational curse  
Say "Thank you dad"  
Thank you daddy, thank you mommy, thank you brother  
Mr. Morale